

Councilman Nash Tackles Litter Control At Forum

By Bartholomew Williams

In an effort to alleviate the disproportionate amount of illegal dumping in his district, Councilman Troy Nash, 3rd district at large, sponsored a community forum Thursday night at the Gem theater in the 18th and Vine district.

Because of the number of vacant lots and abandoned buildings in the district, Councilman Nash believes it is a ripe target for illegal dumping.

"It's hard to believe, but some people must wake up in the morning and believe that the 3rd district is their dumping ground," said the Councilman.

Nash stressed improved methods of dealing with complaints of his constituents regarding debris and illegal dumping throughout the district.

Specifically, he hopes to make it easier for residents to issue complaints through his office and be able to see tangible results.

"I want residents to be able to call my office with their concerns and have them addressed," said Nash.

"After my office has registered them, I'll forward them to the correct department heads," he added.

Nash said that he would like to see an end to the "ping pong form of government" that sometimes goes on at City Hall.

The forum also had input

government dealing with the city's litter problem, including John Stufflebean, director of Kansas City, Mo., Department of Environmental Management, and Al Burton from the not-for-profit agency, Bridging the GAP.

Stufflebean discussed the several options available to

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citizens interested in getting involved in the litter management process, including the location of recycling centers and the \$50 dump program run by the city.

Judging from the roughly 100-person turnout, citizens in his district are just as serious about ending dumping as Nash.

"I think this forum is an excellent idea," said one of his constituents.

"It really gives us an opportunity to give the Councilman some input as to how we feel. I hope this is just the beginning."

Nash said that he hopes to be of service to his constituents through additional forums like this.

"I'm the critical link between the citizens and the city government," said the Councilman. "That's the job I was hired to do 30 days ago."

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